



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK HUNTING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY FOR ENTIRE MONTH; SEASON IS GOOD

Wild fowl hunting will be in season beginning tomorrow (Sunday, Nov.2) in every State in the Union where Sunday hunting is permitted and will continue in all States until November 29. More than a million hunters will probably take to their duck blinds this year, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service advised Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The simultaneous 1-month hunting period in the 48 States comes as a result of the overlapping of seasons in the three major zones in the country. The northern zone, roughly comprising the northern tier of States, opened its 60-day season on migratory waterfowl on October 1 and closes November 29.

The season in the intermediate zone opened on October 16 and ends December 14, while hunters in the southern zone begin tomorrow and stop on December 31.

More than 70,000,000 wild ducks and geese were estimated to have migrated north last spring. With a normal increase on the breeding grounds, there is reason to believe that an adequate supply of migratory waterfowl is heading southward this winter. Early reports from the field indicate a successful season for hunters.

Weather conditions remain on the whole favorable, Service officials said. Drought has been reported from Canada, but it has not been serious enough to alarm the Federal conservationists. In the eastern States, from Illinois and Tennessee to New England, drought prevailed, but in other sections of the country the water supply was normal or above normal, according to findings of the Geological Survey.

Federal officials were confident that the hunting season will be successful in most sections of the country, and that a sufficient stock of birds will remain for the spring flight to the northern breeding grounds.

"Though the number of wild ducks, geese, and other migratory game birds has, generally speaking, been on the increase during the last 6 years, we cannot expect this upswing to continue at the same rate," declared Frederick C. Lincoln, in charge of the Service's Section of Distribution and Migration of Birds, Division of Wildlife Research. He expressed optimism on the status of the present stock, saying that the regulations designed to avoid an excessive kill are intended to insure an adequate breeding stock for next year.